



Memorandum

To: Honorable Members of the House Workforce and Talent Development Committee
From: Chris Fisher, President
RE: Support for House Bill 4813
Date: October 15, 2015

On behalf of the members of the Association of Builders and Contractors, we urge you to support passage of House Bill 4813, industry-backed legislation, which aides in Michigan's continued efforts to rebound our state and the construction industry.

HB 4813 was introduced in response to a 2008 federal court ruling where an injunction was lifted, resulting in new enforcement of jobsite ratios requiring one (1) electrical journeyman or master electrician to every one (1) apprentice.

The Michigan Office of Regulatory Reinvention Report on Occupations Licensing has recommended removing the 1:1 ratio to allow more apprentices on a jobsite, otherwise resulting "in many apprentices losing their jobs."

This regulation has proved to be highly burdensome and inefficient. First, no other construction trade has a ratio requirement. And second, numerous issues have been identified, which are disruptive to employment, costly to comply with, and prohibitive for job training.

As we experience a shortage of skilled trades workers, HB 4813 encourages rigorous apprenticeship training. Additionally, the legislation ensures Michigan electrical training/apprenticeship programs are subject to a consistent and nationally recognized standard by stipulating that requirements must be identical to those established by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. These standards are portable and recognized everywhere. HB 4813 would not impact Electrical Code standards for quality and MIOSHA safety requirements.

For 50 years, we lived in a state without these regulations, free from incident. The past few years under the current ratio requirement has not improved the industry, but rather worsened it. A more flexible ratio on a jobsite means more opportunities to learn the electrical trade, and will prepare Michigan residents for a rewarding skilled trades career.

We urge your support of House Bill 4813.